

## REMARKS

In response to the Restriction Requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed December 15, 2004 in the above-identified application:

Applicants elect the invention of Group I, inclusive of Claims 38-60 and 73-81, drawn to a method of inhibiting cartilage degradation comprising the delivery of a composition locally to the joint. This election is made without traverse.

In response to the election of species requirement also set forth in the Office Action, Applicants initially note that the species of anabolic chondroprotective agents and inhibitors of catabolism disclosed and claimed extend beyond those listed in the office action; however, the species that Applicants wish to elect are included among those listed in the Office Action. Applicants also note that the species "MAP Kinase Receptor" should read "MAP Kinase Inhibitors" and that the species "Nitric Oxide Synthase Receptor" should read "Nitric Oxide Synthase Inhibitors." Applicants elect the following species for initial examination:

Delivery Vehicle: Carbohydrates;

Delivery Mechanism: Injection

Anabolic Chondroprotective Agents: Fibroblast Growth Factors

Inhibitors of Cartilage Catabolism: MAP Kinase Inhibitors

This election is made without traverse. Claims 38, 39, 44-54, 59, 60, 73-76 and 81 read on the elected species. Currently Claims 38, 44-54, 59, 60, 73-75 and 81 are generic.

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Should there be any remaining questions, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully Submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

1/18/05  
Date

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